

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

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O 101205Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4423

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

DOD/ISA/NESA NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CNO NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7888

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IR

SUBJ: USS HANCOCK TASK FORCE

REF: STATE 222512

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE REFTEL SUGGESTIONS WHICH ACCORD WITH SHAH'S PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT IIN WILL BE IN POSITION TO SEND SHIP TO EXERCISE WITH HANCOCK TASK FORCE (OWING TO MIDLINK PREPARATIONS IN PORT), FACT THAT WE WILL HAVE ISSUED INVITATION WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD WITH GOI AND HELP WITH PRESS INQUIRIES.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WE ALSO INVITE IRANIAN NAVAL OFFICERS TO VISIT TASK FORCE. GOI WOULD BE PLEASED WITH INVITATION AND IIN OFFICERS COULD BENEFIT FROM OBSERVATION OF TASK FORCE OPERATIONS. TRANSPORTATION FOR OFFICERS TO HANCOCK WOULD HELP EXPLAIN MISSIONS OF COD AIRCRAFT.

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3. PLEASE CONFIRM ASAP IF INVITATION TO VISIT CARRIER IS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO WRAP UP OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH COURT MINISTER ALAM NOVEMBER 12 BY INFORMING HIM OF USN INVITATIONS TO IRANIAN IIAF AND IIN OFFICERS AND IIN SHIPS.

4. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PROBLEMS MAY DEVELOP IN ARRANGING FOR TRANSPORT OF FUEL FROM IRANIAN PORTS TO TASK FORCE. WE SUSPECT GOI MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN CHARTERING TANKER TO LIFT POL FROM IRANIAN PORT FOR TRANSFER TO USN OILER AT SEA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE US NAVY'S ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING VESSELS FOR CHARTER AND FACILITATING IRANIAN CONTACTS WITH OWNERS.

5. IN ORDER TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES AHEAD WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR USN TO PREPARE SCHEDULE OF PLANNED TANKER RUNS FOR FUEL DELIVERIES, INDICATING WHAT QUANTITIES OF SPECIFIED FUEL WILL BE DELIVERED ON EACH TANKER RUN. IT OCCURS TO US THAT DISTANCE INVOLVED MAY REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE IRANIAN VESSEL UNDER CHARTER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WRAP UP AS TO HOW USN SEES THIS OPERATION PROCEEDING WHICH WE MAY USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH IIN.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, POLITICAL SITUATION, VISITS, INVITATIONS, SHAH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEHRAN07888
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750020-1632
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731167/abqceknx.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 222512
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USS HANCOCK TASK FORCE
TAGS: MARR
To: STATE NIACT INFO LONDON
JIDDA
PEKING
DOD ISA NESA NIACT
CINCPAC NIACT
CNO NIACT
JCS NIACT

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005